

It is a well known fact that school districts all over the country are in dire financial straits; some more than others.

Governor Snyder signed the MOA and entered into an agreement with the devil himself to implement Common Core State Standards. In order to get funds from the Race to the Top program, he had to give up control of our education and curriculum at the local and state levels, and sell the soul of our education system to the federal government. Along with Michigan, 45 states and the District of Columbia signed on, not because Common Core standards are better, but because they each wanted a share of the federal dollars involved. The states failed to realize that with federal dollars come federal strings.

The Common Core is a political document with an identifiable ideology and history that has contributed greatly to the current document. It is important to question who decides what research is used and how that research is presented and used. Why should the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation or Rupert Murdoch be telling us what our children need to know and how to teach it?

The common core materialized as a tool of the private sector. The common core was not sought by educators or those who care about students or the future of the common good. The Common Core was meant for political gain and economic profit. Text book publishers, testing companies, and the IT people needed to install the computers and software in the schools are among some of the people who stand to gain the most from Common Core implementation.

One of the 4 requirements of implementing Common Core is the adopting of international benchmarked standards. Who decides what these benchmarked standards are? What makes them international? Are we modeling our schools after the United Nations or other European countries? The creators of Common Core insist that students need to be "rigorously" ready for college. Not all graduating high schoolers are college material; something left out of the equation is what I call vocational education classes. Not all students are going to be rocket scientists. Get rid of Common Core and go back to teaching classes like welding, HVAC, electrician classes. So many are focusing on Common Core and college preparedness that they have forgotten the children don't want to go to college.

The Pioneer Institute estimates that nationally the cost of Common Core is \$16 billion. If you divide \$16 billion into 46 states that have already implemented Common Core, that is approximately \$3 billion per state. If you divide that up further between the different school districts in any state, that is more money than already financially strapped school districts have available out of an already meager budget. The IT costs alone are going to be huge. Several costs that need to be considered include using substitute teachers while training teachers how to use the new system, new textbooks, new computers, and other hardware needed for

adaptive testing. You will also need to hire more IT people to handle the new testing system, which is more money that will need to come out of a school's budget.

Common Core was developed by an organization called Achieve and the National Governors Association, both of which are extremely well funded by the Gates Foundation. To quote a line from a movie, "show me the money." There was minimal public input in the development of the Common Core. These standards were adopted in 46 states and the District of Columbia without any field test. They should have been tested in a small group of states. Those states would have been happy to be guinea pigs. After all, that's what our children are being used for by the implementation of Common Core, thanks to groups such as Achieve and the Gates Foundation.

For the above reasons, I am asking you as a parent and a taxpayer to please opt out of Common Core. Return control of the education of our children to the people who know best...parents and teachers.

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My sources for the above facts are from the Truth in American Education site and the memos of understanding and letters that the different groups in each state sent in supporting the implementation of Common Core State Standards.